

## BOOK REVIEWS

**ALLERGY IN RELATION TO OTOLARYNGOLOGY.** By French K. Hansel, M.D., Editor-in-Chief, *Annals of Allergy*, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology, Washington University School of Medicine. A Panel Discussion. Bruce Publishing Company, St. Paul and Minneapolis, 1949. An Official Publication of the American College of Allergists, \$2.50.

The first part of this book, which is edited by Dr. French K. Hansel, deals with the clinical side of allergic reactions as related to the respiratory tract. Particular stress is put on the nose and accessory sinuses. Dr. Hansel gives a thorough explanation of nasal cytology and emphasizes the tremendous importance of this diagnostic procedure. Six beautiful plates showing different grades of eosinophilia in the nasal secretions are presented.

In a discussion of the problem of tonsillectomy in children with allergic disease, it is emphasized that often the operation affords poor relief of symptoms. The question of allergic disease of bacterial origin is left open. A discussion of the pathology of allergic states is rather weak since the fundamental problem of changes in the small blood vessels is not discussed. But in general this part of the book makes very worthwhile reading and should impress upon any rhinologist that allergic disorders are of tremendous importance in his specialty.

In the latter part of the book, which is a panel discussion, differences of opinion are so pronounced as to indicate that individual interest may be concerned with only one phase rather than with the entire picture. One discussant, for example, tends to overemphasize surgical treatment, while another confines his attention to psychosomatic aspects.

There is an excellent discussion of aviation problems with regard to persons with allergic sensitivity.

Discussants were fairly well in accord as to the usefulness of radium in the treatment of hypertrophied lymphatic tissue in the nasopharynx. However, the reviewer believes that it is now pretty well agreed that radium therapy has been overdone; it is the opinion of many rhinologists that x-ray therapy is much less dangerous and more effective in this condition.

Despite these criticisms, the reviewer believes that this little book, which takes only about two hours to read, is very worthwhile for any rhinologist.

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**HUMAN GROWTH—The Story of How Life Begins and Goes On, Based on the Educational Film of the Same Title.** By Lester F. Beck, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Oregon, and Margie Robinson, M.A. Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1949. \$2.00.

This book is a welcome addition to the literature on sex education for 'teen-age children.

It will surely be well received by the junior high school group to whom it is especially addressed, and by the various adults who deal with them on this subject. One noteworthy feature of the book is the number, variety and attractiveness of its illustrations. Another excellence is the fullness of the background material on general somatic growth against which the account of specific sexual changes takes its proper place as one important expression of human development. Commendable also is its direct style, with its straightforward, unsentimental description of the processes and significance of various aspects of sexual function, including intercourse.

Only in connection with pregnancy does the author seem to relay a few concepts which fall short of the modern ideal. For instance, he says that a missed menstrual period "warns" the mother of pregnancy (one could prefer a word like "heralds"); he mentions some experience of nausea as a matter of course, even though he minimizes it; he fails to substitute "contractions" for labor "pains." These are such minor details that they would not be worth mentioning except for the fact that we are in an era where young people are ready to profit by every reassurance of the naturalness and happiness of pregnancy and birth.

Perhaps the greatest value of the book is that it is a companion piece to a film of like name, and that each chapter ends with a set of stimulating questions and answers. Both of these devices tend to guarantee that the author will succeed in his intention of "contributing to mental health by a simple honest telling of the story of human growth and by providing a sound basis for discussion with others." For without open discussion one is never quite sure what an adolescent has understood, no matter how clear the text he reads.

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**BULLETIN ON NARCOTICS**, No. 1, October 1949. United Nations, Department of Social Affairs, Lake Success, New York.

This is the first of a regular series of bulletins on the traffic in narcotics to be issued quarterly by the United Nations, thus continuing similar work initiated by the defunct League of Nations. Subjects considered in this issue are international control of narcotic drugs, opium production throughout the world, an enquiry into the coca leaf situation in South America, determining the origin of opium, and administrative matters pertaining to the commission on narcotics. There are illustrations of narcotic plants, cultivated areas, native plantation workers, maps of countries showing legal and illegal production of opium, laboratory assistants analyzing crude products, etc. The discussion on the origin of opium is disappointing as it contains nothing of historical interest; such material is better presented in current textbooks on pharmacology. In fact the scientific matter in this bulletin is so elementary and limited that it has nothing to offer to scientists and physicians. The bulletin is of interest only to regulation-makers and administrative authorities concerned with legal technicalities of the traffic in narcotics.

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**CYSTOSCOPY AND UROGRAPHY.** By James B. MacAlpine, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., lately Honorary Surgeon and Surgeon in Charge of the Genito-urinary Department, Salford Royal Hospital. Third Edition, Revised. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1949. \$13.50.

The third edition of MacAlpine's book on "Cystoscopy and Urography" is a text for students, budding urologists, and the surgeon who does an occasional cystoscopy. There is very little change in this edition over the previous books, the first edition being published in 1927, the second in 1936. Chapters on renal tuberculosis and punch operation for prostatic hypertrophy have been added to the third edition. The book goes into meticulous detail about the cystoscope, its construction, ocular system, care, limitations, and general uses. Most of the commonly occurring diseases observed in the practice of office urology are discussed. There are excellent sections on urinary calculi, renal anomalies and the